

**Follow this link to sign-up for the 2016 season!**

[Click here](#) to read over our CSA policies and member responsibilities.

## **What is CSA?**

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is an alternative farming model that has been gaining popularity in the USA for the past 20 years. There are many farm-specific methods and models used across the country, but a relationship of trust and mutual benefit between grower and consumer is typically the foundation.

In general, members of a CSA purchase a share in advance of the growing season, which helps the grower cover the initial annual costs of the farm operation. In return, members receive boxes of the farm's produce or products throughout the growing season, as well as satisfaction gained from reconnecting to the land and being more knowledgeable of local food production. Whereas both farmer and consumer take on some inherent risks, such as crop failure, the below advantages usually outweigh any risks.

## **Consumer Advantages**

Consumers have access to ultra-fresh food and creative recipes, exposure to farming and the land where the produce was grown, education for families, and the ability to develop a relationship with the farmer.

## **Farmer Advantages**

Farmers have marketing opportunities prior to the actual farming season, the ability to develop a relationship with patrons, and early payments to help with the farm's cash flow.

## **Our CSA Program**

When you purchase a membership 'share' of the CSA program, you are partnering with Echoing Hope Ranch. This partnership is more than just fresh, wholesome, local produce; it is joint support of our greater mission - to serve adults with autism.

Thank you for your support!

## **How It Works**

The first step to joining our CSA program is to register [here](#). Once your registration has been received, we will begin planning and planting crops for you. Please note that a non-refundable deposit is due upon registration and the remainder is due in full two weeks prior to the start of the season.

You will notice when you register that you are asked to select a season - which simply means you choose the season(s) that yield(s) your favorite type(s) of produce. Throughout each season,

harvested crops will be divided among members and will be available for pickup at either Echoing Hope Ranch, in Sierra Vista, or in Bisbee within the selected time slot.

Out of desire to offer members greater diversity, some crops - such as melons, sweet corn, beans, winter squash, and seasonal fruit - are harvested on other local, small-scale farms. Although we want to grow as much of the CSA produce as possible, we realize that your satisfaction is important to the success of the program. However, please be aware that the farming philosophies of the local farms we work with may differ from those of Echoing Hope Ranch.

## **CSA Seasons 2016**

### **The Options**

Four CSA seasons are being offered this year and members are welcome to sign up for more than one season. Each season has a limited number of shares, so we recommend you register for your desired seasons as early as possible.

### **Share Membership - \$200 per season**

Spring Harvest (March 2<sup>th</sup> – April 27<sup>th</sup>)

1<sup>st</sup> Summer Harvest (May 4<sup>th</sup> – June 27<sup>th</sup>)

2<sup>nd</sup> Summer Harvest (July 6 – August 31<sup>st</sup>)

Fall Harvest (September 7<sup>th</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup>)

### **What to Expect**

Each share feeds two veggie lover or four people those who do not eat a large variety of produce throughout the week. You can expect fresh, wholesome, and nutrient dense produce that is harvested hours prior to your pick-up day. In each box, you will receive a weekly newsletter that contains recipes, information about the produce, and whether your produce is grown at Echoing Hope Ranch or at a partnering local farm.

### **Season Offerings**

The below mentioned fruits and vegetables are intended to be a guide. Some produce will vary in different seasons and others may simply not be available based on the conditions of the growing season. Please feel free to contact Marla Guerrero at 520-508-2087 or [marla@echoinghoperanch.org](mailto:marla@echoinghoperanch.org) with any additional questions.

Examples of spring produce include: mixed greens, kale, peas, herbs, root vegetables, spring garlic, and onions.

Examples of summer produce include: broccoli, cucumbers, peppers, eggplant, onions, tomatoes, squash, zucchini, kale, melons, and corn.

Examples of fall produce include: kale, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, tomatoes, winter squash, root vegetables, mixed greens, and pecans.